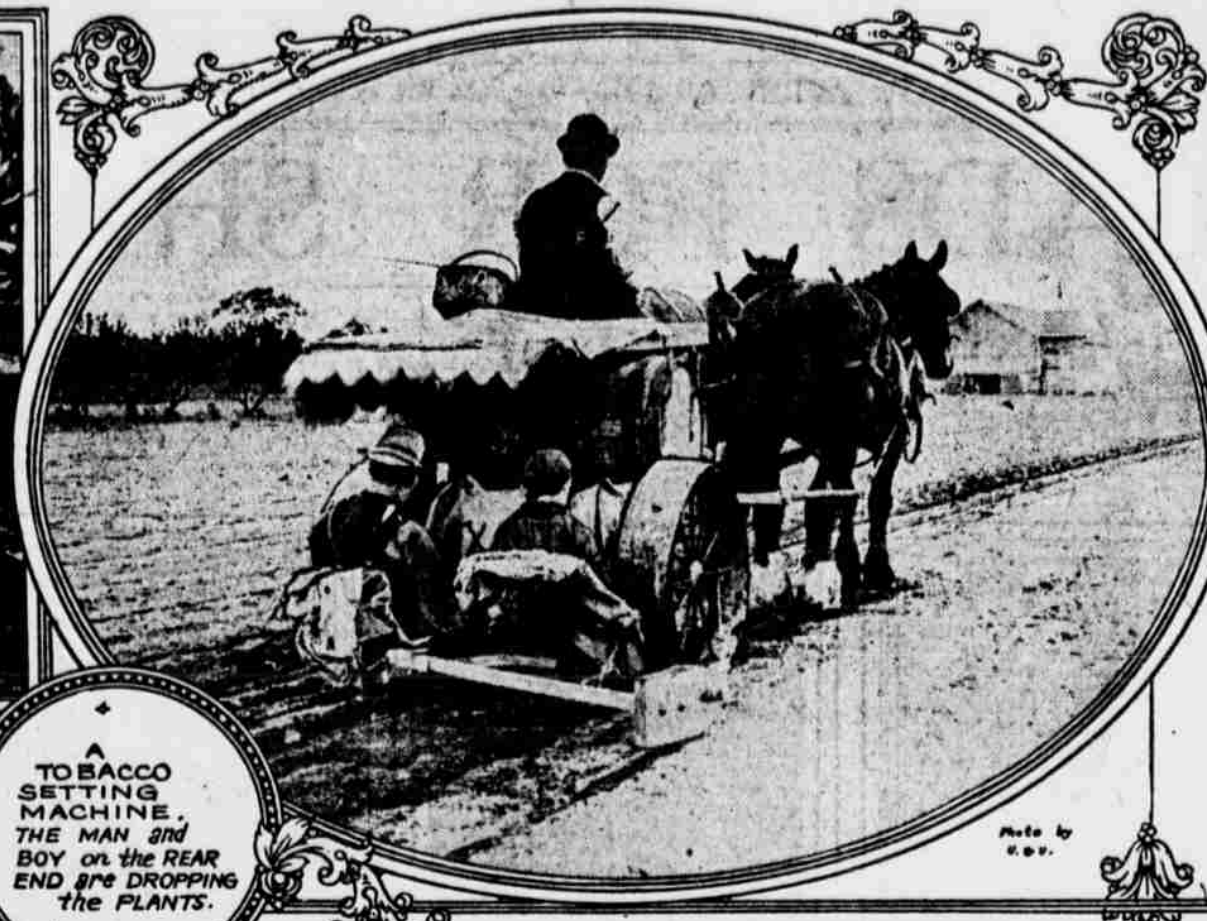


What Would Happen With That Ban on Tobacco a Reality

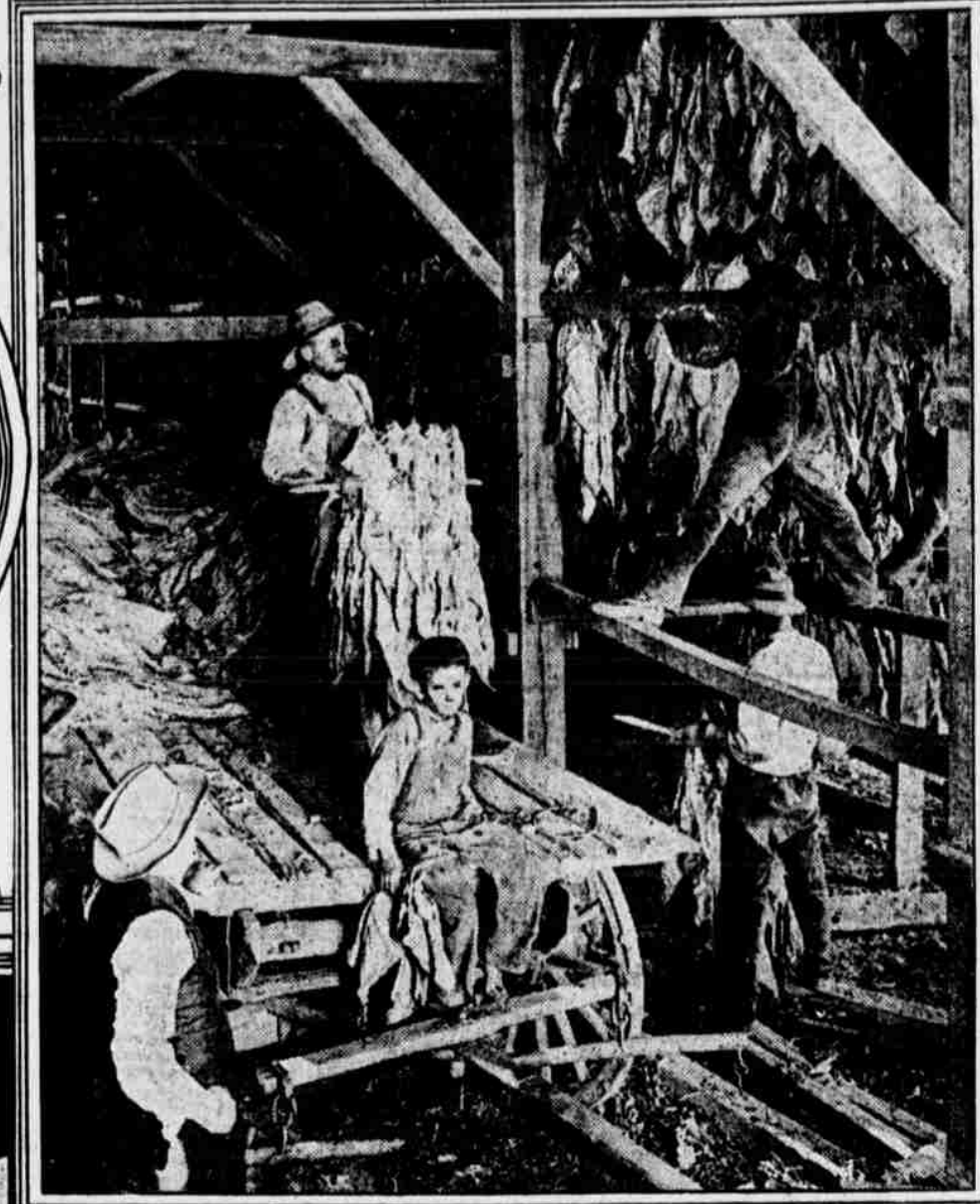


PICKING TOBACCO at the RIGHT TIME is of PRIMARY IMPORTANCE

There's Uncle Sam Counting on a Tax of \$250,000,000, to Say Nothing of the Vast Capital Invested and Labor Interests Involved



TOBACCO SETTING MACHINE. THE MAN and BOY on the REAR END are DROPPING the PLANTS.



PUTTING TOBACCO into a BARN to be AIR CURED

We're coming, we're coming, a brave little band!
With the bright sword of Temperance held in our hand—
We don't use Tobacco, for well we may think
That chewing and smoking lead only to drink!

Old Blue Ribbon marching song.

THEY may continue to lead to it as viciously as ever. But after a very few more fevered clock ticks they won't be able to make us drink even if they do the leading, for a well known and diversely regarded reason. None the less, since January 16, when Nebraska sealed Drink's doom, declarations of a new war on tobacco, avowed of a full purpose to get chewing and smoking prohibited while the prohibiting is good, have been constantly imputed to the moral reformers.

The particular moral reformers whose canny playing of politics is everywhere believed to have been the power that did for drink are the Anti-Saloon League, and the Anti-Saloon Leaguers deny that they plan to go on and do for tobacco at this time. They say rumors to the contrary were started by the wicked drink people, hoping to discredit the league and have off national prohibition.

The W. C. T. U. files a like disclaimer. Its New York State president, Mrs. Ella A. Boole, says the union is not at this time campaigning for an anti-tobacco Nineteenth Amendment, and will stick to its efforts to keep cigarettes from the young, according to law.

Digs Up the Hatchet.

But the twenty-year-old Anti-Cigarette League, having healed a schism that was opened by the cigarette or appetite of the A. E. F., has dug up the hatchet and sworn implacability. It is organizing a national offensive centered in New York. And a new Committee of Fifty, patterned after the one that fought drink years ago, is in being with an imposing list of names. All this is rough on the doubters. Shattered nerves of tobacco addicts. They are genuinely alarmed. They don't look for a tobacco ban, but they have seen that anything in the line of bans is possible. "There ain't no such beast" as an amendment cutting off the weed—but if he sticks his whiskers around the corner, what are we going to do?

Uncle Sam is wondering, or well he may be, what he would be going to do. As plenty of foreign observers and some Americans are ready to tell him, he was ready two years and a half ago. Uncle is a scold old scoundrel with no soul above dollars and cents. Assume he is. Not figuring in the income and excess profits tax returns, Uncle's internal revenue for 1918 came to \$856,619,748 and some odd cents. Of that between one-fifth and one-sixth—\$156,138,460 to be painfully exact—was from tobacco.

And \$448,839,544 was from spirits and fermented liquors, a source of revenue now abolished. Uncle has sheathed the sword, but he hasn't buttoned the wallet by a good deal. He is about to make another issue of emergency bonds, and—drives? German and otherwise, being over—he's privately hoping for the best as to their sale. He hates to think of piling a heavier burden upon our incomes and the profits of our industries. So do we!

Boosting the Tax.

He is having to figure pretty nimbly among his sources of ready money, and he counts on tobacco, a "luxury" to yield him \$100,000,000 more this year than last. His tax impositions upon it have that in view. In February he jumped the tax on cigarettes, for instance, from \$2.05 to \$3 per thousand. Cigarettes alone are expected to yield a hundred million of the \$250,000,000 for which the tobacco industry and business is down.

The manufacturer is now paying 6 cents tax on every packet of twenty cigarettes, while we—er—that is, the up-to-date ultimate consumers—are paying a quarter for such a packet which used to be sold for 15 cents, and 15 to 17 cents (according to where we live and with whom we deal) for an ounce and seven-eighths of that jimmypious, doesn't-burn-my-tongue, Patience-and-Ma-Nature kind of pipe ammunition used to be 10 cents and a pipe or a chrome thrown in with your first pound.

(It is true that pipes, very decent ones, too, are cheaper. If you'll only keep on buying ammunition at advanced rates you may have the gun for a song.)

And cigars are correspondingly more expensive. This slashes the national financial

end of the traffic the crusaders hope to kill. As an industry, tobacco is agricultural at the start. The plant can be grown in nearly every one of the forty-eight States. It has importance among the crops of twenty. Kentucky led in 1918 with 360,739,000 pounds. North Carolina was next with 240,444,000. Virginia third with 162,371,000. Ohio fourth with 112,363,000. Tennessee, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Wisconsin, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, Indiana and West Virginia tapered along from 61,000,000 to 11,000,000 pounds. New York, not ranked as a great tobacco State, produced the respectable—besides the disreputable—quantity of 3,567,000 pounds. The national total was 1,266,688,000 pounds.

The estimated acreage in tobacco this season totals 1,549,000. The number of farmers growing it is around 325,000. Of course they could grow something else, nutritious food or ill-ness of the valley. It would mean scraping and replacing a good deal of their farm equipment and learning some new line of agriculture to supplant the tobacco, to which many of them have singlemindedly devoted their whole lives. But that is a detail.

Capital and Labor Interests.

Capital's end of a problem gets small consideration these days, especially from moral reformers. Perhaps it will be insolent to mention that the capital stock of the American Tobacco Company, one of the Big Four in the business, is \$22,945,100, and the capitalizations of the Lorillard, Liggett & Myers and Reynolds companies is on the same scale, and a long list of minor concerns are items worth figuring. But labor's end is treated with more respect. The report of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue for 1918 showed that there were 12,217 cigar factories, 311 cigarette factories and 1,915 pipe, chewing and other tobacco factories in the United States, besides sixty-one where snuff was made. They employed 194,000 skilled laborers alone.

The retail business was represented by 700,000 licenses issued to retailing tobaccoists, conservatively estimated to have employed 2,000,000 persons.

While that monster of moral depravity, the ultimate consumer, who doesn't come into the business equation except as he pays the freight (an economic waste, the anti-tobaccoists assure us) was estimated as 35,000,000 strong, not to say reeking and polluting. Our per capita consumption is the highest among nations, 5.4 pounds on estimate. The lowest consumers are the Russians.

Of manufactured temptations, cigarettes have not only held their own, but gained ground under war and its living costs. The number taxed in the United States in 1918 was 37,890,617, 317, and that doesn't include the great quantities shipped to the A. E. F. tax free. But it more than doubles the 1914 total.

Cigars Show Decrease.

But cigars have been receding, perhaps because of popular economy. In 1918 the domestic production was 6,990,824,532, as against 7,857,572,778 for 1917. Last January 518,000,000 were manufactured, 14,000,000 less than in January, 1917.

Our foreign trade in tobacco, naturally cut by the war's preemptions and regulations, has always shown a comfortable trade balance in Uncle Sam's favor. Europe normally is an eager customer. The continental countries are large tobacco producers, and can, or could before the war, extend their production sufficiently to be independent of us, without throwing other lines of agriculture out of balance. But they buy our tobacco to blend because it is cheap, and because its mildness goes well with the stronger leaf which their soils and climates favor.

In 1917 we exported \$45,578,458 worth and imported \$53,471,764. In 1918 the export amounted to \$22,833,040, the import to \$26,856,095.

Tea and Coffee Next?

And while on the subject of making one vice do duty for another, a writer in *Good Health*, which they publish out in Battle Creek, where good health is advertised as a purchasable commodity, opines that we have already

been supplanting booze as a tipple to a truly alarming extent, and that if we are to be saved from drug addictions (and sanatoria, presumably) tea and coffee as well as tobacco will have to follow alcohol into the discard. He says:

"Between 1909 and 1918 the annual consumption of tea rose from 115,000,000 to 151,000,000 pounds, an increase of 4,000,000 pounds per annum. 'Estimating the average individual consumption of tea drinkers to be two-fifths of an ounce per diem, the total number of tea drinkers in the United States is about 16,000,000, an army of drug addicts whose number is increased annually by the addition of 425,000 new recruits.'"

"Search for the cause of this surprisingly rapid increase of tea drinkers has led to the discovery that the increase of tea drinking has paralleled the decrease in the use of alcoholic liquors. It appears, indeed, that the American people are exchanging alcohol for tea. The question at once arises, Will the nation gain or lose by swapping rum drinking for tea tipping?"

"Of course the answer must depend upon the amount consumed in both cases. A little tea would be less harmful than much alcohol. On the other hand, a little alcohol would be less harmful than much tea. In equal quantities tea is decidedly worse than beer. The amount of poison in a pint of strong tea is greater than that in an equal amount of beer, not by weight but in physiologic effect. A man could drink without showing evidence of intoxication more pints of beer than of strong tea."

"We shall not be satisfied to trade off whiskey temperance for tea tipping. Drug addiction of all sorts is to be frowned upon and suppressed. A tea drunkard is a nervous wreck, neuroathetic, unsettled, depressed, sleepless, inefficient and haunted by morbid fears. 'China, with the aid of the American Tobacco Company has exchanged the opium pipe for the cigarette, and the opium habit for the cigarette habit upon a greater number of persons than ever were addicted to the use of opium.'"

"English bayonets helped to establish the opium habit in China. America has given China the cigarette just as she was rising and shaking herself free from slavery to the Indian poppy. And China may yet give up the scales of

tea and coffee for the scales of tobacco."

Magnitude of Tobacco Industry Shown by Internal Revenue Report

Itemized report of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue of the amount of tax collected on various tobacco products for the fiscal years 1917 and 1918:

Tobacco and Tobacco Manufacturers—	1917.	1918.	Amount of Increase.
Cigars, large.....	\$24,800,311.78	\$30,034,476.95	\$5,234,165.17
Cigars, small.....	712,937.89	875,727.20	162,789.31
Cigarettes, large.....	98,850.22	121,506.12	22,655.90
Cigarettes, small.....	38,127,168.93	66,370,961.45	28,243,792.52
Cigarette papers or tubes.....	431,382.24	431,382.24	—
Snuff.....	2,430,220.05	4,049,402.14	1,619,182.09
Manufactured tobacco.....	35,661,056.49	47,435,437.44	11,774,380.95
Floor tax.....	6,251,479.60	6,251,479.60	—
Manufacturers—			
Cigars.....	269,387.56	378,715.07	109,327.51
Cigarettes.....	46,783.26	115,102.33	68,319.07
Tobacco.....	39,822.19	44,669.39	4,847.20
Totals.....	\$102,676,998.14	\$156,188,659.90	\$53,511,661.76

Tobacco, cigar, cigarette and snuff factories in operation December 31, 1913-1918:

Years.	Cigar.	Cigarette.	Tobacco.	Snuff.	Tobacco.
1913.....	20,555	469	2,727	76	833
1914.....	19,841	447	2,766	68	591
1915.....	16,754	351	2,394	68	397
1916.....	15,732	267	2,214	71	431
1917.....	14,576	311	2,085	67	321
1918.....	13,217	311	1,915	61	277

making us a nation of tea drinkers—
—having already evened them up in another quarter, as this writer neglects to say, by making the British such a nation, with the result of the total disappearance among Britons of all those moral and physical qualities by which idealists set store, except such as have made Great Britain the unconquerable protector of the liberties of the world.

The point of this seems to be, let him or her who is without tea and coffee cast the first stone at tobacco, and as evening things up is a game at which many can play. It is not too fantastic to imagine a populace, deprived by lobbying and moral coercion of its smokes as well as its drink, turning round and depriving its deprivers of their morning mocha and java and their 5 o'clock pekos.

Out to Fight Prohibitions.
But does the anti-tobacco crusade, revived and encouraged by liquor prohibition, amount to anything deserving of discussion? The tobacco men among others think it does. At the idea of March an association opposed to national prohibitions, with a big 8 on the end of prohibitions, announced its organization and incorporation and the opening of headquarters in the Berkeley building, 19 West Forty-fourth street, Manhattan.

No liquor man has anything to do

ing," says the manifesto, warning under the collar, "it is only necessary to remind any one who questions it that if some one twenty-five years ago had asserted that by Constitutional amendment the manufacture and sale, the importation to and the exportation from the United States of so-called intoxicating liquors would be prohibited that person would have been written down as a harmless ass. Yet that very thing has happened since the birth of the Anti-Saloon League."

"If some one were to say to-day that within twenty-five years the manufacture and sale of cigarettes would be prohibited by Constitutional amendment in this country the statement would be regarded as equally absurd. Yet in the Legislature of three States there are pending bills prohibiting the manufacture and sale of cigarettes within the limits of those States, and in the Legislature of another State there has been introduced a bill providing for the levying of a prohibitive tax on cigarette tobacco and the paper in which cigarettes are rolled."

The Committee of Fifty.

The new Committee of Fifty includes Dr. Alexander Lambert, Sir William Osier, Prof. Henry W. Farnum and Irving Fisher of Yale, Dr. Walter B. Cannon of Harvard, Austin B. Fletcher, chairman of the board of trustees of Tufts; George J. Fisher of the Y. M. C. A. international committee, Dr. Oscar H. Rogers, chief physician for the New York Life Insurance Company; George Foster Peabody and Dr. Eugene Lyman Fisk, director of the Life Extension Institute.

Another of its members is Prof. F. W. Roman of Syracuse University, who made quite a noise immediately after January 16 by proclaiming that nicotine was next. Prof. Roman is a youthful bachelor with a turn for impromptu oratory, who is well known in Syracuse wherever earnest thinkers get together. Interviewed on his "nicotine next" call to arms, he mollified it a trifle, saying that tobacco prohibition was too much to hope for at the present time, but thought currents could be started and propaganda let loose on public opinion.

The objections of the aforementioned distinguished gentlemen to tobacco are hygienic and economic, primarily hygienic. With them in objection, as Prof. Farnum pointed out, they have Henry Ford. Henry has no use for the cigarette on business grounds. A very few years ago he was open

mined on the subject. Then he decided to look into it, and wrote his friend Thomas A. Edison to ask for an opinion. Mr. Edison closed Henry's mind against coffin tacks, sending him a famous letter, framed copies of which can be found in all Y. M. C. A. headquarters at home. He assured "Friend Ford" that the burning of tobacco and rice paper together produces an alkaloid called acrolein, which is destructive to the tissue of the brain, and that no cigarette smoker can stay on the Edison pay roll.

Some low minded chemist published analyses showing that if acrolein is the root of evil, the amount of it involved in smoking many, many cigarettes is too small for consequence to health. But Henry and Mr. Edison have stuck to their opposition.

For and Against the Weed.

Anything can be proved by authority for or against tobacco. An imposing array of savants can be mustered in support of the thesis that smoking causes, or contributes to cause, interference of more than one form, unemployment, insanity, cancer, tuberculosis, arteriosclerosis, crime of every variety, and almost any other unpleasant thing you can name. An equally imposing array could be lined up to retort that tobacco is a benign natural safety valve for the pressure of modern life, especially in America.

One of the classic medical opinions often quoted is that given by Dr. Fraser Harris, professor of physiology in Dalhousie University, before the Association of Health Officers of Nova Scotia. Dr. Harris' position is betwixt and between. He affirmed:

"That the injurious substances in tobacco smoke are probably oxidation products of nicotine and other alkaloids. That the smoking is more injurious to the younger the smoker is. That chewing is much more injurious than smoking. That the injurious substances are absorbed more readily when inhaling than when smoking without inhaling."

That people's constitutions differ markedly in sensitivity toward the substances which raise blood pressure, derange the heart and foster indigestion.

That those who are sensitive in these respects ought not to smoke at all, and that those who are not may smoke in moderation with impunity. The moral argument, the sinfulness of being enslaved to any vice, has been made much of in the past by the anti-tobacco campaigners who bracketed

Champions of Personal Liberty Regard the Crusade as a Movement Toward Endless Prohibitions—"What Next?" They Ask

smoking with drinking. The W. C. T. U. used to be very strong upon this point. But the Anti-Saloon League, inveighing against liquor so far as it did this publicly, was always careful to keep away from ethics and religion and concentrate on the hard headed, practical kind of appeal. And it is interesting to remember that Billy Sunday, the evangelist, who says the most blamelessly living member of a community is as hopelessly lost as its grossest monster unless he is a professing Christian, does not denounce tobacco altogether by any means.

"I haven't got much to say on that subject," he gets into one of his sermons, in effect, "if a man's of age he can decide about smoking for himself. But if you're going to smoke get a good cigar or pipe and go to it, in moderation—not a dirty, assy cigarette!"

"The esthetic argument is used. A minor poet of distinction who had just completed an Ode to My Lady Nicotine, was startled when he read it to his wife, previously unsuspecting of poetic gifts, and she countered promptly with—

"Tobacco spilled upon the floor
Is a great big, horrid, nasty bore!"

and millions will agree with her that it is, their husbands feelingly hoping the state contention that it keeps noths out of the carpet. Wives vote these days in many States, a fact of which State legislators are believed to have been mindful when the liquor prohibition amendment came up for action. On the other hand, no few wives and no mean number of daughters of voting years are smokers themselves.

"The war is over," said Miss Lucy Page Gaston oracularly, resigning the Anti-Cigarette League presidency during an interlunatic ruction it had a few weeks ago, "and the cigarette is once more a poison." Its toxic properties were gone into before the New Jersey Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Ocean Grove on March 14 by the Rev. Dr. Clarence True Wilson, secretary of the Methodist Temperance and Moral Board.

Blames Shell Shock to Cigarettes.
Dr. Wilson was quoted as saying that the tremors of so-called shell shock victims were really due to cigarettes and that the wicked "tobacco trust" had foisted drugged cigarettes, extra poison and addicting and depraving, upon the soldiers. When returned army officers heard of his charges they struggled between laughter and profanity.

What tobacco, and cigarettes in particular, meant to the American Expeditionary Force, as to every other force that took part in the war, is too well known to require enlargement here. About a year ago, on Gen. Pershing's recommendation, cigarette tobacco began to be issued biweekly to the men, and a long and widely advertised brand, whose trade mark is a more or less camouflaged benefactor of the butcher and the dairyman, disappeared from the home trade in consequence. Also, every private war work organization was furnishing all the cigarettes it could purchase and ship to the "boys." The Y. M. C. A. hats sold them. Other organizations gave them free.

At this point THE SUN Tobacco Fund breaks into the general survey (Continued on Following Page.)